

SENATE RESOLUTION 162

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize V.L. Stonecipher on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, V.L. Stonecipher is one such estimable person who has served the students and families of Anderson County Schools with distinction for forty-three years; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Anderson County Schools since 2005, Mr. Stonecipher will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2009; by his final day, Mr. Stonecipher will have been feted and honored in a variety of ways for all he has done on behalf of public schools; and

WHEREAS, during a regular meeting of the Anderson County Board of Education in March, board members voted unanimously to name the new gymnasium at Claxton Elementary School after Mr. Stonecipher, a fitting tribute given his twelve-year tenure as Principal of that institution; and

WHEREAS, on May 20 and 21 of this year, Mr. Stonecipher toured every one of the system's seventeen schools, which serve a student population of nearly seven thousand; along the way, he received a bevy of gifts and well-wishes from the students and teachers of these schools; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, a public reception will be held at the Junior Achievement BizTown facility to honor Mr. Stonecipher; and

WHEREAS, before his long and distinguished career with Anderson County Schools began, V.L. Stonecipher was himself a student in one of those schools; the Briceville native began first grade at Briceville Elementary School in 1950; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Mr. Stonecipher graduated from Lake City High School, and four years later he returned to Anderson County, where he began teaching and coaching at Rosedale School; in addition to teaching math and science to students in three different grades, Mr. Stonecipher was responsible for both the football and basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stonecipher spent a year at Rosedale before taking a position at Lake City Elementary, but he remained there only two years before returning to Rosedale as a “teaching principal,” a job that involved an extensive list of duties; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, after four years of service at Rosedale, V.L. Stonecipher was appointed Principal of South Clinton Elementary School, where he remained for eleven years; from 1984 to 1987, he served the school system as Director of Pupil Special Services; and

WHEREAS, he returned to the helm of an elementary school after those three years of higher pay and greater frustration; when he became the Principal at Claxton Elementary in 1987, he began a twelve-year stint in which he oversaw five major renovations and the addition of a sixth grade; and

WHEREAS, “In one way, it might have been stupid,” Mr. Stonecipher said, alluding to the reduction in pay that attended his acceptance of Claxton’s principalship, “but it was the best move I ever made”; and

WHEREAS, at Claxton, he also shepherded his institution through the process of earning accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and, in the 1990s, he worked to implement the State’s Basic Education Program plan; and

WHEREAS, having demonstrated his singular teaching and leadership skills in so many capacities, Mr. Stonecipher was an excellent choice for Anderson County Schools Director of Instruction, a position he assumed in 1999, and would remain in until his appointment as Director of Schools; and

WHEREAS, given the depth and breadth of his experience in the Anderson County Schools, it is little wonder that his retirement has prompted such an outpouring of admiration in his last days with the system; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his forty-three years in education, V.L. Stonecipher has accomplished great things for the students, staff, teachers, and families of Anderson County Schools, and while he will be missed, his legacy of service and professional acumen will

continue to stand, guiding those who come after him as they work to provide Anderson County's students with the best public education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stonecipher has been most fortunate to enjoy the companionship of his wife, Pat, a teacher in Clinton city schools; the couple's son, Will, is a 2007 graduate of the University of Tennessee, and their daughter, Sarah Freels, is a 2008 graduate of Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, V. L. Stonecipher exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Stonecipher has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby applaud V.L. Stonecipher on his many years of service to the students and families of Anderson County Schools and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.